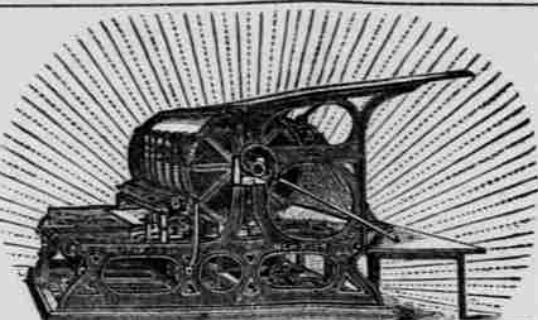


St. Johnsbury



Caledonian.

COMMENCED AUGUST 8, 1837.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., THURSDAY, NOV. 29, 1888.

VOLUME 52--NUMBER 2679.

The Caledonian.

St. Johnsbury, Vt., Thursday, Nov. 29, 1888.

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Each subscriber will find on his paper in connection with his name, the date to which he has paid. No other receipt is necessary.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

Weather Record.
At Bingham's drug store, for the week ending Nov. 25, 1888.
Highest. Lowest.
Thursday, 29, 5
Friday, 28, -1
Saturday, 29, 11
Sunday, 29, 8
Monday, 30, 25
Tuesday, 43, 35
Wednesday, 43, 35
A dash (-) indicates below zero.

NEW ADS. IN THIS PAPER.

Harvey & Brown—Furs and Dress Goods.
Harper Bros.—Harpers' Bazar.
Smith & Walker—Sachet Powder.
J. H. Clements' Hat—Commissioner's Notice.
Scribner's Sons—Scribner's Magazine.
Mrs. Helen F. Carpenter—Bargains in Handkerchiefs.
Lyman P. Wood—House and sleigh for sale.
Dr. E. W. Royce—Return to St. Johnsbury.
28 Main street—Room to Rent.
Lynch Institute—Lynch Net.
Lyon W. Taft's Eat—Probate of Will.
Alfred F. Nichols—Gleaner Notice.

BRIEF LOCALS.

—The subject at church of Messiah next Sunday evening will be: Matthew xiii: 24.
—There will be preaching at the Presbyterian church next Sunday and the Sunday following.

—The St. Johnsbury orchestra give a promenade and dance party at Wells River Thanksgiving evening.

—The annual meeting and election of officers of Chamberlin post, G. A. R., comes Saturday evening.

—The annual election of officers of the Woman's Relief Corps takes place Thursday evening, Dec. 6, at G. A. R. hall.

—The next meeting of the St. Johnsbury District Preachers' meeting comes Jan. 20-23, and will be held at East Burke.

—The post office will be opened Thanksgiving day from 8 to 9:30 a. m. and from 6 to 7 p. m., the evening mail closing at 7.

—The next entertainment in the lecture course comes Friday evening, December 7, and will be given by the Jules Levy concert company.

—The two or three correspondents who kindly responded to our request for news items one day earlier than usual this week, have our cordial thanks.

—The South church congregation is in hopes to worship in the audience room of their church next Sunday, though it is hardly counted on as a sure thing yet.

—Thomas Ward is engaged in the shoe making department in the Windom state prison "bottoming" shoes. He is as efficient as ever and gives no sign of his feelings.

—C. C. Bingham is using a long-distance transmitter in the central telephone office that brings Montpelier and other distant points right to his elbow, and is proving a great advantage.

—Prof. Chapman's reading at the Free Baptist church last evening was very simply attended, but the entertainment was an excellent one, the selections varied in character and were admirably rendered.

—Greensboro doesn't connect with Caledonia county this time. A third reading of the bill proposing annexation was refused in the house Saturday—137 to 56. The bill to repair the Caledonia county court house has passed.

—Twenty of the friends of Mrs. Lamphere, a worthy widow of Fairbanks village, called on her last Thursday and left a very substantial reminder of their friendship in the shape of a goodly donation of groceries and a purse of \$12.

—The assignment of judges to the supreme and county courts in this county are as follows: Supreme court, May 14, 1889, Judges Royce, Ross, Veazey and Taft. County court, June 4, 1889, Judge Royce; Dec. 4, 1889, Judge Tyler.

—Frank Perrigo gives up the management of the Fairbanks boarding house at Fairbanks village Dec. 15. His place will be taken by Mr. Simpson of Sheffield. Mr. Perrigo remains in town this winter, but after that his plans are uncertain.

—A regular circus was stirred up on Railroad street yesterday by a jocosely remark made by Postmaster Bowman concerning some repairs he was making, that he was packing up preparatory to moving the office. His orders to move haven't arrived yet.

—Quite a snow storm that was much more severe in the southern part of the state and in New York than here, prevailed Sunday afternoon and night. The first sleigh of the season appeared Monday morning, but the tracks were too heavy for it.

—Miss Townsley was obliged to close her labors with the Baptist church here Sunday evening on account of sickness. The meetings were very well attended during the week, and were continued Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week under the direction of local pastors.

—The scale works shut down Wednesday night for the rest of the week. The necessary connections and changes in order to use petroleum in place of coal as a fuel will be made while the shops are closed. The first trial of the new fuel was made Monday with great success.

—The December term of the county court commences here next Tuesday before Judge Tyler. The more prominent of the cases to be tried are those of John O. Hale vs. the Grand Trunk Railroad company and Harvey Foster vs. Thomas Ward, the latter for damages for the barn burning affair.

—In the matter of the fatal accident to Daniel E. Durkee on the St. Johnsbury & Lake Champlain railroad, at Hyde Park, on Aug. 11, the railroad commissioners find that Durkee, in attempting to couple cars got caught between the tender and the car injuring him so that he died the next day.

—One of those careless utterances that are being made every day by everybody and have no special significance only as they become prophecies in the light of following events, was made by John Belknap on the evening before he was drowned. He was buying a shirt in one of the local dry goods stores when he remarked in his jocular way, after making his selection, "Well, I guess that will be good enough to be drowned in." Poor fellow, such proved to be the case.

—Gymnastic Exhibition.
The annual exhibition by the gymnastic class of the Y. M. C. A. under the direction of Mr. Fitzgerald will be held next Tuesday evening at Music hall. Music will be furnished by the St. Johnsbury Orchestra. The exercises will consist of dumbbell drills, exercises on the parallel and horizontal bars, high kicking and jumping, club swinging, vaulting, tumbling, etc. Those who have attended these exhibitions in the past know how interesting they are and an unusually large attendance is expected. Receipts go to procure new apparatus for the gymnasium.

—A Local Occurrence.
Some of the good people of St. Johnsbury felt greatly shocked at the way in which Sam Small denounced the liquor traffic last week. To such is commended this instance that occurred in this town one night last week: One of the employees at the scale works found a man lying within a few feet of the Passumpsic railroad track just above the first covered railroad bridge south of here, benumbed with rum and cold. The grass was beaten down to within a very short distance of the track showing that the man had rolled back and forth all night long, and that it was little short of miraculous that he was not killed by the passing trains. In one of his pockets was a bottle partially filled with liquor. The man was roused sufficiently to show that he was a citizen of St. Johnsbury, a husband and father, who pleaded with the man who found him not to divulge his name. All this in St. Johnsbury, and yet some of our sensitive people would have us deal tenderly with the rumrunner and be very choicely in the selection of words to characterize his business.

—A Reminiscence of Col. Merrill.
In an obituary notice of Col. George A. Merrill in this issue, reference is made to his correspondence in the Caledonian over the signature "Hal." An extract from one of these letters, giving an account of a religious service which he attended in Montpelier, furnishes an insight to the character and tastes of the man, that will be read with interest by some of our older subscribers. The Mr. Padlock referred to is John H. Padlock of this place, who at that time was organist in the Montpelier church. Here is the extract:

I must not omit to tell you (and it is refreshing to get away from political chicanery, in the recollection) that a large number of the members, in common with the congregation, listened to a sermon last Sabbath morning from the Rev. Mr. Lord, founded on the text—"In simplicity and Godly sincerity." I can give you no idea, in the short space I must occupy, of its terseness, and the directness with which he appealed to all to make religion a reality, and not a supplement to our lives. The choir at this church is effective, and the selections characterized by that exquisite taste for which Mr. Padlock is always distinct from most organists. I own to a spell in the chancel refrain that marks his playing. There is a holy grandeur in the organ, now pealing forth, loudly forth; then falling into a flexible and undulating pathos that thrills along the pured memories, and stirs the fountain of tears. It brings back the remembrance of a now sainted boy, who with a good-night kiss, prayed that no more songs might be sung, when he had gone to his little bed, for the sound made his heart ache. Beautiful boy! He did not know that he was the voice of unembodied beauty—the whisper of an angel—his angel, who now whispers—

"The Lord is Thy Shepherd, thou shalt not want."

Reader, let the melody of the shepherd's reed fall gently upon your ear, and your heart be cheered by the sight of those glorious mansions, looming through the mists of the dark valley, until you are folded safely within the loved-for gate.

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PERSONAL MENTION.

Horatio N. Roberts of this town has been granted a pension.
Mrs. L. P. Wood, after brief visits in Newbury and Northampton goes to New York for the winter.

H. C. Bond has resigned his position as assistant train dispatcher on the Lake road and has accepted a position as book keeper in the office at the Fairbanks store.

George Frost, who has been employed on the books in the office of the Fairbanks store, has returned to the main office where he was employed before going into the store.
George W. Cree, postal route agent between Swanton and Portland, takes the place in the Lake road office made vacant by the resignation of H. C. Bond as assistant train dispatcher.

E. E. Turner son of Robert Turner of Paris, France, has been here the past week visiting his relatives. He has left Boston and will go to Detroit to engage in the boot and shoe business.

The many friends of Rev. H. W. Jones and Rev. Henry E. Jewett of Vacaville, Cal., will regret to learn that a very disastrous fire visited that town the night after election burning two business squares and involving a loss to property holders of \$200,000.

Herbert W. Allen was elected cashier of the Merchants National bank, at the regular meeting of the directors Monday, to take the place of W. S. Streeter, resigned. Mr. Allen has been employed in this bank for six years or more, the last year or two as assistant cashier. His advancement is a well deserved recognition of his faithfulness and integrity and his many friends in this community join in hearty congratulations. Mr. Allen assumes the duties of his new position next Monday.

The Barton Monitor says that James Works of Waterford, who passed his 100th birthday last December, and who died recently of apoplexy, was in early times a resident of Barton. In 1810 he kept a store in that village; he was then 22 years of age and saw the waters of runaway pond as they passed down the valley of Barton. There is now but one man known to be living who saw the sight. Daniel Owen of Barton remembers distinctly of standing on the hill above the chair factory and seeing the torrent pass down the channel of Barton river.

A Relic of "Bristol Bill."
County Clerk Nichols, while clearing up the vault in his office the other day, came upon a relic of the days of "Bristol Bill," the noted burglar and counterfeiter, in the shape of an affair that looked very like a pair of old fashioned strap hinges. The contrivance was thus labeled: "A die for making counterfeit half dollars found in H. Evans' garret during the trial of E. Low (Bristol Bill) and others, in 1850, and deposited in the county clerks' office for safe keeping." This die was for making half dollars of the date of 1823 and bears every evidence of having seen a good deal of service. The engraving was undoubtedly done by Christian Meadows, whose skill was misapplied in behalf of the counterfeiter, who was afterwards pardoned and was employed by the government in the engraving department.

Progress of the Electric Light.
The necessary leases, etc. between the village trustees and the Thomson-Houston electric company have been signed and there seems no chance for any further interruption in the introduction of the light in St. Johnsbury at a very early day. The location of the various lamps were announced last week. It is expected that the poles will be in position this week. A considerable force was at work on the dam below the village all day Sunday and it is now ready for business. A number of business men and organizations have already signified their intention of putting in the new light. The Masons will light their hall by electricity and there is some talk of its being introduced into the South church.

School Exhibition.
Unique and exceedingly interesting was the exhibition of drawings and manufactured articles at the Union school buildings Saturday afternoon. For some years Miss Mattie Ross has been giving lessons in the schools in drawing, and attention has frequently been called to results achieved in this branch of study. At the beginning of the fall term Miss Ross began giving instruction in the art of plan-drawing and construction and in needle work. The exhibition Saturday consisted largely of results in this new line. There were hen-coops, step ladders and a grindstone; derricks, tip carts and even a well equipped steam engine; toboggans, travers sleds and a model house; cannon, guns and a clothes reel, with fancy boxes and bric-a-brac in great variety. Each article was accompanied with a working plan, quite a number giving evidence of more than ordinary architectural skill and knowledge of drawing. In the needle-work department were various specimens, many of them from original designs by the pupils and all of them giving evidence of wise instruction and apt students. On the blackboards about the room were some fine specimens of drawing by Helen Patterson, Mabel Soule, Ida Hall, Harry Waite, Edith Ranney, Grace Hibbard and others. Miss Ross is to be congratulated on the success of this new departure. Many parents and friends of the pupils were present.

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TERRIBLE DROWNING ACCIDENT.

John Belknap Carried Over the New Dam and Drowned.

This community was terribly shocked last evening to learn of the death by drowning of John Belknap, a native of St. Johnsbury and well known as one of the most skillful engineers and machinists in this section. He was carried over the new dam across the Passumpsic river below this village a few minutes before 5 o'clock. The dam was only just completed, the gate having been shut for about an hour, while the water was going over the dam for the first time. The men were trying to save a large stick of timber about 25 feet long that was in the river just above the dam, but were hindered by ice that was attached to it. Mr. Belknap pushed out in a boat between the stick and the edge of the dam to assist in the work, when the current caught the timber, swung it round against the boat and in less time than it takes to tell it the boat and Mr. Belknap went over the dam on to the rocks 12 feet below, quickly followed by the timber. He was carried a number of rods by the current, which, always strong at this point was unusually so at this time because of the swollen river, when he rose to the surface and shouted for a rope, but was hardly seen before he disappeared again. Every effort was made to reach him but without avail. The accident occurred and he disappeared for the last time before any one had realized its horrible significance. A. L. Bragg, the contractor on the dam, says he saw him rise and that he shot out of the water as though he had been a stick of timber and disappeared again instantly. Mr. Belknap had on a pair of heavy hip rubber boots and heavy clothing. The water at the point where he rose was quite deep and he was so encumbered that he could do little toward saving himself even if he had not been injured in going over the dam. At the point where he was last seen the river turns sharply to the south and forms an eddy. It is thought that the body was either pushed aside into this eddy, or remained in the current and was carried down stream.

After the accident the men who were there, reinforced by others from the village organized searching parties and began the sad work of seeking for the body. The night was intensely dark, and the rain that prevailed and the uncertainty as to the whereabouts of the body made success largely a matter of chance. Though the search was faithfully continued it was without success and this morning at 6:30 the body had not been found. Some of the circumstances connected with the drowning of Mr. Belknap were peculiarly sad. The hour of the accident marked the successful completion of an enterprise that had been a pet scheme of his for many years. Living near the river and having a keen eye for such things he recognized years ago that a valuable water power was not utilized at that point. Early in the present year he bought the water privilege, and later, in company with a number of others, organized the Water Power company and began the work of carrying out his long cherished plans. The building of the dam had been greatly hindered by constant rains, and after many vexatious delays the work, to which he had given his personal and daily attention, was brought to a successful finish, the power had been profitably leased, and the satisfaction of it all had been his only for an hour when he was called hence.

John Belknap was born in St. Johnsbury in 1840, being 48 years old at his death. Though never identified with the public life of the place he had marked characteristics that gave him a certain prominence. As a skilled mechanic it is doubtful if his superior was to be found in the state. He could construct almost anything from a pen-knife to an engine, from a bicycle to a rifle, and had in course of construction at the time of his death a steamboat, every part of which, from the hull to the engine, was to have been of his own construction. Perhaps the best water motor now in use was his invention; the first one that he ever constructed was made for the Caledonian office. Since then he has made large numbers of them which are in use in various parts of the country. Industrious and of correct habits he had accumulated a competence. As a citizen and in business affairs he was upright, straightforward and honest in all his dealings. Though somewhat brusque in manner he was kind-hearted. In all matters concerning religion he was a confirmed skeptic of the Robert Ingersoll type. His wife and one son, Harry, aged about 17, survive him. The son was assisting his father at the time of the accident and was overwhelmed by it. Mr. Belknap also has two brothers and a sister living, Amos of this place and Frank and Mrs. Henry Shumake of Sherbrooke.

LATER.—At the hour of going to press neither Mr. Belknap's body nor his boat have been found. The talk that he could not swim can hardly be true as he was an expert canoeist and has been for years a member of the American Canoe association. A large party is engaged in searching for the body and a diver has been secured to assist.

Thanksgiving Services.
Thanksgiving services are held here this year at the Methodist church Thursday morning at 10:30. Sermon by Rev. T. P. Frost. Everybody cordially invited.

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THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Some Suggestions Worthy of Consideration.

When the craze for the electric light has passed by, the sober, sensible citizen will discover that he is paying extremely dear for his whistle. In fact a good many realize this already, and are not backward in declaring it an expensive and needless luxury. If the expense was limited to the \$1300 voted by the village, few would complain; although that is about double the present cost of lighting the streets. But the trustees are credited with making a three years' contract, the electric company giving 33 lights the first year for the \$1300, but after the first year only 20 lights. If the village want more than the 20 lights it must pay \$70 a light. Here is where the shrewdness of the electric company appears. They are well enough acquainted with human nature to understand that after 15 or 20 extra lights have been scattered about the village suburbs for a year, there will be a remonstrance which will be removed. The result will doubtless be that instead of lighting the village as now for \$700, or even as contemplated by the village when it voted \$1300, it will cost the tax-payers \$3000 yearly. Now we submit that this is extravagant for a village of this size. The electric light may be desirable, but it is not in any sense a necessity, and in a place of this size it is a very expensive luxury. Some of the best electricians say decidedly that no town can afford electricity for illuminating purposes until some cheaper method of generating it is discovered. St. Johnsbury has many advantages, some that other towns of its size may not boast of. For things useful and valuable every citizen should be thankful, but it should not be forgotten that the great majority of the people of this place have small incomes and earn their bread by the sweat of their faces. Many of them own homes, and they do not care to see so large a part of their income go for taxes, especially for taxes which neither does them nor the public good. The taxes of our town are two or three times as high as some of the towns about us. It may be answered that we have more things to pay taxes for. Very good; but taxes here are \$3.60 on a thousand higher than they are in the city of Boston, and the town being only \$13.40, and yet Boston is much exercised over the expense of its electric light and there is likely to be a revolution in regard to it.

Citizenship improves as a rule in the same ratio as the citizen owns real estate. It would be better for our town did every man own the house he lives in. But what inducement is held out for the man of moderate means to own real estate in a town where the people's money is used as it is here? It will be a sad day for the prosperity of this place when the man of moderate income finds that taxes and insurance eat up his home.

Reference has not been made in this article to the questionable method by which the trustees intend to saddle this extra tax upon the village. Look at the facts: Two of the trustees are owners in the water power company. When they contract for the electric light for this village they are simply trading with themselves. That is, if the trustees will contract the lighting of the village streets to this electric light company, said company will take a lease of a water power owned by individuals on the board of trustees for a term of years at an enormous profit. Otherwise said water power may be idle.

If any one thinks that the trustees are running this village as a charitable institution they will wake up some day to their mistake. Our people can scarcely have forgotten the regime which entailed a water debt upon the village of about \$50,000, of which there is yet a \$50,000 balance unpaid, although the village is taxed yearly a sum varying from \$2500 to \$4500 to liquidate this debt alone. And even at this high rate of taxation it will take nearly 20 years longer to wipe it out. This is a long-suffering people, and the manner in which they endorse "jobs" which enrich the bosses at the expense of the tax-payer is past explanation. But it's a long road that has no turn.

Catholic Notes.
A supper will be served in the new Catholic church Thanksgiving evening from 6 o'clock through the evening. The church will be illuminated and everybody is invited.

The frescoing of the church ceiling is completed and it is expected that the walls will be done by Monday and the staging removed. The frescoing has been done by Mr. Heney of Boston. It is now expected that the interior will be completed in readiness for mid-night mass on Christmas.

Father Boissannault has completed a census of his parish and finds that there are 318 Catholic families in this community, numbering about 1900 persons, averaging between five and six individuals to each family.

Thanksgiving morning Father Boissannault, assisted by other priests, will dedicate a new bell in the Lyndonville Catholic church.

On Monday and Tuesday morning there were four marriage ceremonies at the Catholic church performed by the pastor: William Welch and Mary Coleman; Thomas Picard and Lena Dagnault; D. Juneau and Victoria Jacques; Joseph Doucet and Adele Paradis; all of St. Johnsbury.

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SAM SMALL'S STORY.

A Masterpiece of Eloquence and Pathos.

The fourth entertainment in the Y. M. C. A. course last Friday evening was a lecture by Rev. Sam W. Small of Atlanta, Ga., entitled, "From Bar-room to Pulpit." The address was an autobiography of thrilling interest closing with the story of the conversion of Mr. Small, a conversion almost as remarkable as that of St. Paul's. Rev. T. P. Frost, in his happy way, introduced the speaker by announcing "that the display of Frost on this platform would be Small."

The address opened with a beautiful story, most beautifully told, of a stranger who purchased all the singing birds in a market place and one by one liberated them from their prisons and gladly saw them homeward fly. Mr. Small said he came here as one freed from the worst slavery ever instituted to tell them how he purchased his freedom. Then followed a running sketch of his early years of dissipation. The boy who left his home followed by his mother's prayers and tears, who went through college graduating with high honors, found himself in a large Southern city where public sentiment countenanced the social glass. The blessings of a happy home, a lucrative position in the courts of justice, and the entreaties of his wife did not stop his downward career. A journey abroad and the attendance of the most skilled physician in Paris could not check his appetite. As a last resort his wife had a notice served on every bar-keeper in Atlanta forbidding them, in accordance with the public statutes, to sell any liquor to Sam Small. These notices, wet with the hot tears of his wife, were the laughing stock of every tavern in Atlanta.

This flagrant violation of the law furnished a golden opportunity, which was quickly grasped, for a plea for the better enforcement of the temperance laws and for a sharp rebuke to all who are content with the present condition of things. In the scathing criticism and ridicule which followed like hot shot neither saint nor sinner was spared nor the minister who straddled the question lest by his introduction he should divide his church. Some of the audience squirmed under his probing, others wished he had not called a spade a spade, but the majority praised him for his fearlessness and courage.

"Why didn't they obey my wife's legal notices?" he asked. "Tell me why they didn't obey the law in your state and I will tell you why they didn't in Georgia. They didn't do it there because they didn't dare do it. If your officers won't enforce it here they are either cowards or in league with the saloons. What is a license? It is blood-money laid on dead consciences to beautify the corpses. I have paid 17 of the best years of my life and \$20,000 for a license to preach against the saloon. We have enough public sentiment on this question to run seven worlds. What we want is organized action. Call me a crank? When I was the drunkenest fool in Atlanta and a terror to my wife and children nobody called me a crank. Everyone said I was a 'hale fellow, well met.' Since I have become converted and begun to preach temperance I am called a crank. When I get to Heaven I am going to say to my Saviour, 'Here, Lord, is your crank. He has done what he could.'"

The story of Sam Small's conversion brought tears to many an eye and thrilled all his hearers as only true eloquence and pathos can. The vivid word-pictures introducing scenes in his home life will never be forgotten by those who heard the story. He took his children to hear Sam Jones to enjoy the Sabbath in a kind of a picnic style. He was convicted of sin and hastened to drown his conviction in liquor remaining intoxicated for two days. The crisis came on Tuesday and the picture was then presented to the audience of a man drunk in the morning, contemplating suicide at noon, converted in the afternoon and preaching salvation and temperance in a crowded public square in the evening, with his little children as his only backers